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Dated: November 18, 2004

Signature: Tia B. Zimmerman

(Tia B. Zimmerman)

Docket No.: 509192000201  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Russell A. HOUSER et al.

Application No.: 10/669,204

Art Unit: 3739

Filed: September 23, 2003

Examiner: A. Farah

For: APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR  
TREATING TISSUE

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

This is in response to the non-final Office Action dated May 18, 2004, for which a response was due on August 18, 2004. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a three month (3-month) extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response up to and including November 18, 2004. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Amendments to the claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims, which begins on page 2. The remarks begin on page 4. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, in light of the amendments and remarks presented herein is respectfully requested.